

## THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

## THE MOST TRYING TIMES IN HISTORY

One of the speakers at the Chautauqua remarked, "We are living in the most trying times in history." That set me to thinking about trying times, and since I didn't know very much about them and had seen very little of them amongst my neighbors, I began to wonder when and how they started anyway.

Well, I thought and thought and thought and as near as I could make out the trying times started with Adam way back there in the garden of Eden when he got to living a little too fast for his times, coaxed Eve into that unfortunate apple incident, and as a result the devil was to pay and they both had to go to work hard, making a garden of their own, and manufacturing some clothes out of fig leaves to keep the wolf from the door, and enable the family to make a decent appearance in society. There isn't a shadow of doubt in my mind but what Adam said, "Eve, dear, we're passing through the most trying times in the history of the world." And doubtless Eve replied, "Well, Adam, making clothes out of fig leaves sure does get on my nerve."

I hadn't any more than got through thinking about the trying times of Adam and Eve when I thought of our ancient friend Noah and that ark of his. You know it seems to me as near as I can find out, that the people of that day got to fussing around, wasting their time, living beyond their means, until God Himself didn't know what to do with them. Noah and his family seemed to be about the only ones left who had any self-respect or who ever thought of God. Well, sir, one day it just set in to rain like split and it kept it up for forty days. Noah had been expecting some such thing, and was prepared for it, with the biggest and best boat that had ever been built, as a result of his thrift in trying times, even if the neighbors did laugh at him when he was building it. When Noah tried to put all those animals into that boat, and get them to live together in peace and contentment, he was heard to remark, "Well, boys, these are the most trying times in history." He was in all probability a mighty tickled navigator when that big boat bumped up against Mt. Ararat and the watchman cried "Land Ho," for it had been a nerve racking experience, one of the most trying times in history.

Queer, isn't it? When you get to thinking about hard times you have a hard time to even quit thinking about it, and so I just went right on thinking about Moses and what a trying time he must have had paddling around in the bulrushes in the family clothes basket, and after he got out of that trouble, the grasshoppers ate up the crops, the frogs made such a disturbance that the people couldn't sleep nights, and finally Pharaoh chased Moses and all his followers out of the country and expected to drown them all in the Red Sea, but just then the wind changed and, as the waves rolled over Pharaoh and his crowd, they were heard to gurgle, "This is the most trying time in history."

Now, there was Belshazzar who got the idea in his head some way that he was the whole show and could do just as he pleased. He was living pretty fast and had a merry crowd of free-spenders around him. He made a great feast with a thousand of his lords. They were having a hilarious time regardless of expense or consequences, when suddenly Belshazzar looked up from his flowing bowl of high ball and saw some strange hand-writing on the wall that led him to conclude he was living in the most trying time in history, for it was the call to give an account of his riotous living and the very thought of it gave Bel a nervous chill which developed into apoplexy.

Again, there was King Saul, who was chosen because he was a goodly young man, head and shoulders above all the rest of the boys and he came from one of the best families, too; a great big fine chap, and for a time he made a good king, but he lowered his ideals, introduced false gods and false doctrines into his country and finally got to a point where he went after dark and consulted the old witch of Endor. And he was no longer master of himself, let alone being king of a great country. Finally, when the tide of battle had turned against him, he fell upon his own sword and with his dying breath gasped, "This is the most trying time in history."

Goliath was another great big two-fisted fellow, but he got so chasty that he was bluffing and bull-dozing everyone for miles around. He offered to fight King Saul and all his followers at once, and had them scared green, until a shepherd boy named David came along, called his bluff and pegged him between the eyes with a stone about the size of a goose egg. Such a thing had never entered Goliath's head before, and he was so knocked out that he wilted down as limp as a dish rag, gurgling, "This is the most trying time in history."

Solomon, the son of David, when he succeeded his father to the throne, asked God to give him wisdom and his request was answered to such an extent that even to this day any schoolboy will tell you that Solomon was the wisest man in the world. No man ever had a better chance than Solomon. But he wasted much of his opportunity by getting stuck on every pretty woman he saw and living way beyond his means with wives enough to supply a whole county. He finally went sporting around with the Queen of Sheba and when the treasury was empty, his people tax-ridden and poverty stricken, he woke up one morning with a terrible fit of the blues and cried out in his deep distress, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity. Busted, by thunder! This is the most trying time in the history of the world."

Napoleon Bonaparte was a little bit of a runt, but he didn't know it for quite a long time; as a matter of fact, he was so conceited that he got the idea that he was about the biggest man in the world and he got a big following because he started a new fad in fighting, which like many other fads, became very popular in spite of the expense and the waste. Finally, on the great battle-field of Waterloo, Napoleon awoke to the fact that he had been greatly mistaken as to his size, and a little later, sitting alone on a stump on the island of St. Helena, watching the silver moon beams play hide and seek with the cloud shadows upon the sad and silent sea, he looked up at the twinkling stars and murmured, "This is the most trying time in the history of the world."

But I must stop this thinking business or I'll get into the habit of it and have a trying time breaking off, so I will pass over a number of fellows who have had experiences with the most

trying times in history, to comment upon Bill Hohenzollern, the erstwhile kaiser of Germany, who gained considerable notoriety in our own day by playing the role of "The Beast of Berlin" in the world's greatest tragedy. You know, Bill got an awful case of bighead, made up his mind he wanted the world with a fence around it and started right out across country after it. And, by jimminy, it looked for awhile as though he was going to get it. It cost three million lives and over a hundred billion dollars to head off the trail of Bill's fiery ambition to say nothing of the awful property waste. Our own share of this expense is about thirty billion dollars and 115,660 of our best young men, but we finally got Bill stopped and now he is over in Holland sawing wood with a buck saw, and undoubtedly mumbling to himself, "Well, by golly, dis is de most trying time in de history of de world."

Funny, isn't it, how many trying times you can rake up if you really stop to think about it? The world seems to have been just full of the most trying times in history.

The most trying thing about it seems to be trying to get the money to pay for someone's foolishness or cussedness or both, and that's the reason we are passing through the most trying time in history just now, and have been ever since Adam turned aside from the straight and narrow path of right living, way back in the Garden of Eden.

## With Our State Contemporaries

## MAKE ALL SPORT HONEST

The acquittal of the accused White Sox was not unexpected, though the verdict of the jury will not change the verdict which the public has already rendered. These men are out of base ball for all time, without doubt. They would be dead wood in the game, if ever permitted to play again. But it is not alone baseball that should be cleansed—all sorts of sports should be made so honest as to gain the confidence of the public.

There has been so much gambling, so much crookedness, so much scandal connected with sports of all kinds that the average man has doubt of almost anything except an amateur meet in which he knows the contestants personally. It would require a good deal of effort to restore the confidence of people in general, but it could be done. The American people are a sporting people—they enjoy sports and they want to feel that it is honestly conducted, whether it be a yacht race, a baseball game, a prize fight or a match game of golf. Then they will enjoy it. But at this time it requires a great deal of assurance before every big match to convince the onlookers that it is not going to be a "fake" staged for the benefit of a select coterie of gamblers who will take the money of the public.—St. Louis Leader.

## THE DISARMAMENT MEETING

It is to be hoped that President Harding's conference of the chief nations to be held in Washington in the near future to consider the reduction of armaments and armaments and military expenditures, will produce some definite results. The whole world is staggering under military expenses. The same money expended in homes and bettering the conditions of living would produce wonderful results. In July our war department expenses amounted to \$59,000,000 and the expenses of the navy to \$56,000,000. The world was leaving a train of millions killed, maimed, bankrupted and war debts that will not be paid during the lifetime of any of the present generation, is a sad commentary upon civilization. The president's hands should be upheld in this laudable undertaking.—Clinton County Republican.

## THE RUSH FOR DIVORCE

The annual report of the county clerk at San Francisco shows that 7,585 marriage licenses were issued during the year ended June 30, while suits for divorce totaled 5,678. Half of the marriages in that city are proving failures, and a wreck of broken homes is the destructive result. It is a pathetic aftermath of disillusion for these ill-matched couples, that entered the married state with such rose dreams of happiness. It is worse for the children, none of whom can know the full benefits of parental love and guidance. They must either miss the father's guidance or the mother's love. The community suffers in development of its citizenship when so many matrimonial ventures go to shipwreck. Matrimony in many places is getting to be too much of a trial marriage affair.—St. Johns News.

## Railroad Revenue Gains \$14,697,346

Indications of business improvement are seen in the net railway operating income in June of the railroads of the United States which amounted to \$51,778,000 and was \$14,697,346 more than in May, according to reports just filed by the carriers with the interstate commerce commission.

The earnings for June, on the basis of the tentative valuation fixed by the interstate commerce commission for rate making purposes under the transportation act, would be at the annual rate of return of 3.1 per cent compared with 2.4 per cent the previous month. Tabulations show, however, that the railroads fell short \$47,395,000 or 47.7 per cent of earning 6 per cent contemplated by the act.

This was, however, the largest amount earned during any one month by the railroads since last November.

Union services will be held Sunday night in the Baptist church. Rev. Matt Duffey will deliver the address.

## Investigate Head Selected Rye

It is a matter of common experience that Rosen rye soon mixes and degenerates until it is little better than our old style rye. This comes from the fact that the pollen from rye blows long distances. Wheat on the other hand will not mix if two varieties are planted close together. A head of Rosen rye is very easily distinguished from a head of common rye. In some parts of the state where there is no other than Rosen rye grown the fields have been carefully rogued, sorting out the common rye, thus producing as near pure Rosen rye as is possible. There are some of the islands in Lake Michigan where there is nothing but Rosen rye grown. In this way it has been possible to keep it absolutely pure. Any farmers in Gratiot county who are in the habit of raising fields of rye would find it very profitable to plant the head selected rye and next year have it inspected and sold by the Michigan Crop Improvement Association. The following letter sent out by the Farm Crops Department of the Michigan Agricultural College explains how this rye can be obtained: "The yields obtained from Head Selected Rosen Rye during the past two years have been far superior to those from Certified or Common Rosen. Head selected rye produces rapid results—more so than the selection of seed corn."

"All farmers desiring to grow Registered or Certified Rosen in accordance with the regulations of the Michigan Crop Improvement Association must obtain Head Selected Rosen this year. The Registered Rosen of the past will no longer be eligible for inspection."

"There is only a limited amount of Head Selected Rosen available, all of which should go to the pure seed growers. County Agents and Elevator Managers should see that they have a grower of Head Selected Rosen for farmers throughout the state will want it next year."

"This is a real step in crop improvement and is built on a solid foundation. It is believed Head Selected Rosen will add \$2,000,000 annually to Michigan's rye crop. Farmers should get in touch with Cooperative Managers, County Agents, or write direct to Michigan Farm Bureau Seed Department, Lansing, and place orders now."

## CAMP MEETING

The Church of God will hold its thirtieth annual camp meeting in its grove two miles east of St. Louis beginning August 18, and continuing for ten days. Evangelists O. E. Line of Elkhart, Ind., and Charles E. Brown of Detroit will be among the speakers. Good preaching and good singing has made these meetings highly interesting for many years. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Weather and Crop Bulletin

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the past week the sunshine was somewhat below the normal, especially over the Upper Peninsula, the temperature slightly above, and copious and well distributed rains fell over the entire state.

## GENERAL SUMMARY

Weather conditions during the past week were ideal for the maturing of growing crops and the preparation of the ground for fall seeding. It interfered some with threshing operations, but fall ploughing is general with the exception of some isolated localities. The condition of late potatoes, corn and pastures were greatly benefited, except in some localities, where they were too far gone from the effects of the long drought, to be revived. Potato prospects are much better than last week but the crop will be light. In most parts of the State beans are doing well but are not set as heavily as usual. Sugar beets are making a fine growth. Over the central and southern counties corn is denting and will be ready to cut soon; some has already been cut for silage. Dutchess and other early apples are now being picked; the quality of the fruit is good but the yield is light over the southern, and fair to average over the northern orchards. The third crop of alfalfa is being secured in some of the southern counties.

If it is something to be printed, we can print it. The Alma Record—advertisement 10-3w

## Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

Preserve This and Then You'll Know

## President and Congress

President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$160,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$260,000 in all. (Subject to change.) Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa. Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass., salary \$12,000. The 66 Senators and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 29 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$5,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,817 population.

Party Division in 67th Congress: House 301 Reps., 133 Dem., 1 Sec. Senate 59 Reps., 37 Dem.

U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truman Newberry.

Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

## The Cabinet

Arranged in order of presidential succession: Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Navy, Joseph D. Bagley, Ohio; Postmaster-General, Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denby, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. M.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

## The Supreme Court

Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$25,000. Associate Justices, salary, \$14,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif.; (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass.; (Rep.); Wm. R. Day, Ohio, (Rep.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo., (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J., (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn., (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass., (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio, (Dem.).

## Michigan Government

Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary, \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Read, salary, \$300.00; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$2,500.00; State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary, \$2,500.00; Auditor Gen., Oranuel B. Fuller, salary, \$2,500.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary, \$2,500.00; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$4,000.00; State Highway Comm., Frank L. Rogers, salary, \$2,000.00; Senator of District, Aaron Amon, salary, \$800.00; Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary, \$800.00; Supreme Court Justice, salary, \$7,000.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Steere, Howard West, Grant Fellers, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Birt, Nelson Sharp.

## County Officers

Circuit Judge, Edward J. Mulnet, salary, \$2,500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kress, salary, \$2,400.00; Sheriff, A. F. Wilbert, salary, fees; Clerk, Bernie Carr, salary, \$1,500; Treas., Sidney Evey, salary, \$1,500; Pres. Atty., O. L. Smith, salary, \$2,200; Register of Deeds, Chas. Heider, salary, fees; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1,600; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCall, Wm. A. Bahke, fees; Drain Com., Evva Laycock, salary, \$1,000; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

## City Government

Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary, \$200.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Flood Glaso, A. J. Archer, Philip Crocker, salary, \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary, \$5,000.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary, \$2,000.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$1,800.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Bahke, salary, \$1,200.00; Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$1,000.00; Chief of Police, James E. Campbell, salary, \$1,700.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Sand, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$3.00 per day on actual time.

## AUGUSTUS PITOU, INC.

Presents

## DENMAN THOMPSON'S

## 'The Old Homestead'

STRAND THEATER

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2

## Going Up--

Lumber prices have hit bottom—there is little probability of their going any lower. If they go any place in the future, the chances are that they will go up, not down.

Why, Man, you can buy the lumber for that bungalow from 40 per cent to 60 per cent cheaper than you could a year ago. Just what you have been waiting for! RIGHT NOW, while prices are at the bottom is the logical time to fire the landlord and build that

## HOME OF YOUR OWN

We cater especially to Home Builders. Drop in and let's talk over your plans. We can probably offer some suggestion or give you some information that will be of value to you.

Quality First Material—Ultimate Satisfaction Guaranteed—Service That Really Means Something.

## Home Lumber &amp; Fuel Co.

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Phone One-Nine

Alma, Michigan

## Alma-St. Louis Fruit Co.

## Headquarters for FANCY FRUITS and VEGETABLES

THE FINEST OF Candies, Tobaccos and Cigars

We keep the best and solicit your trade

## Piccolo Bros. &amp; Biafore

ALMA

Fruit Store

PHONE 48

ST. LOUIS

121 E. Superior St.

## Bartley's Market

GOOD QUALITY—RIGHT PRICES

FREE DELIVERY ON ALL ORDERS 50c AND OVER

Phone 28

Short ribs, lb	10c	Sardines in oil, can	7c
Kettle roasts, lb	13-16c	Corn starch, pkg.	10c
Round steak, lb	25c	Prunes, medium size, 2 lbs	25c
Corned beef, boneless lb	20c	Cheese, full cream, lb	28c
Hamburger steak, lb	17c	Milk, tall can,	10c
Pork, corn fed, good quality		Comb honey, new, lb	30c
Pork steak, lb	18c	Bread flour, good quality,	
Sausage, lb	18c	3 large packages for	\$1.25
Loaf pork chops, lb	30c	Pastry, Flour, sack	\$1.00
Fresh pork shanks, lb	10c	Butter crackers, lb	15c
Bacon, home cured, in the		Ded-D-Cut macaroni,	
chunk, lb	25c	3 large packages for	30c
Pie in hams, lb	18c	Jap Rose Soap 2 for	15c
Home rendered lard, lb	15c	White Naptha Soap, 5 bars	23c
Veal for stewing, good		E. Z. Seal Jars, pints doz.	\$1.95
quality, lb	10c-15c	Jelly glasses, doz.	60c
Veal shoulder roasts, best cuts		Sugar per cwt.	\$6.95
lb	22c		
Genuine spring lamb, chops,			
roasts and stews			
Fowls, fresh dressed, lb	30c		
Spring chickens, lb	35c		
Fresh caught lake trout, lb	30c		
Salmon, tall cans, 2 for	25c		

WE ARE IN THE MARKET FOR LIVE STOCK, POULTRY, BUTTER AND EGGS